

people are waiting for the American dream. They pay taxes, they have given their sons and daughters, they fight our wars. And they will continue to do that because they have a strong belief in our Constitution and the freedom that this country represents.

We cannot allow this amendment to go forward. I hope that Members on the other side of the aisle will agree with me.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARR).

Mr. BARR of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, what is wrong with the Shays-Meehan picture? If a U.S. citizen wishes to contribute voluntarily money for party building, for grassroots activity, to get out the vote, to educate voters, they are prohibited from seeing their money used for those lawful legitimate laudable purposes by a political party at any time during a campaign and by a grassroots organization during the final stages of a campaign. Yet a noncitizen, somebody not allowed to vote in this country, can, under Shays-Meehan, vote and influence political events in this country by making a contribution.

Something is wrong with this picture, when we are taking rights away from United States citizens in Shays-Meehan and allowing the right to vote to influence the political process to noncitizens. That is what is wrong with the picture.

It is a loophole that must be plugged. Vote for the Wicker amendment. The Wicker amendment simply stands for the proposition, very simply, that if you cannot vote, you should not be able to contribute and influence directly the political process through money, when you do not have the right to vote.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 15 seconds.

Mr. Chairman, The gentleman is wrong on both points. It does not take rights away from American citizens, and this bill neither gives nor takes away from rights of people who legally live in this country. That is the law today. You seek to take it away.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I just want to give two faces to the people that you would deny this right. I had one woman come into my office from the former Soviet Union. She was in a country, it was a dictatorship at the time, she was Jewish, she could not even exercise her right to go to synagogue. She was so proud of the fact she could come in my office, she could make phone calls, she could do mailings and make a little contribution, I think it was \$25.

She was so proud of that fact. She could not vote yet because she was applying to be a citizen, but she wanted to participate in the process.

I had another woman who was a doctor at the local emergency room, an In-

dian physician. She wanted to do the same thing.

What is wrong with letting these people exercise their rights? Nothing.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the Democratic whip.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding me time and for his leadership on this important issue.

Mr. Chairman, I represent a district that is so beautiful because it is so diverse. Our country is every day invigorated by the arrival of newcomers on our shore. They bring with them their courage, their commitment to family values, a commitment to the academic ethic, the religious ethic, a sense of community, and a strong love of freedom and patriotism, yes, to America.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this unfortunately mean-spirited amendment because it is a poison pill and because it will deprive minorities in our country of a right to participate in the freedom that they have so courageously sought.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the distinguished gentleman from Washington State (Mr. INSLEE).

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Chairman, where are the smartest people in the world going? They are going to America.

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Physicists from Ireland, computer specialists from India, folks from all over the world are coming to this country as the mecca of democracy, and they are making our economy stronger. If my colleagues want to know what it means, come to my district to see what it means for Microsoft and real networks to make this economy boom. I will just say one thing: The fellow who said Patrick Buchanan says that this is hurting America, he is dead wrong, and we ought to reject it to put a stake in the heart of that attitude in this country tonight.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 15 seconds to the very distinguished gentleman from the State of Oregon (Mr. WU), the only Member of this House born in Taiwan.

Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, enemy of the State. Enemy of the State. I have not heard much of this debate since hearing those words. I think that the gentleman from Arizona, by labeling legal permanent residents of America enemies of the State, by so doing has perpetrated a great evil and consigned that perspective, I hope, to the dust heap of history.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute and 10 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to say that I am conflicted by this. I want to say to my friends on the Democrat side, they have made a lot of

good points. I think there are a lot of good points that have been made by the Republican side, too. I also want to remind my colleagues, because there are a lot of new people here who have been speaking with lots of righteous indignation about this, and I think their indignation is sincere, but veterans over there and veterans over here may remember September 14, 1999, when we had this exact same vote on a bipartisan basis. It passed 242 to 181. I have the voting list in my hand. I will be glad to share it with anybody. I do not choose to embarrass anybody by reading names, but I can tell my colleagues that every third name on here is a Democrat. I will say this to my Republican colleagues: Plenty of them voted no last time.

This is not a bipartisan issue. This is not a finger-pointing issue, and this is not a racist issue. If it is, we are indicting a lot more than the author of this amendment, because plenty of folks voted yes last time, and plenty of folks voted no last time in each party. I have it right here in my hand.

So I am just saying this: As many of my colleagues know, I can be just as partisan as some of the rest of us, but I am saying in this case, this is not a partisan issue, this is not a mean-spirited amendment. We have been down this path before. I think we had a much better debate last time, but here is a copy of the results of that debate, and I will share it with anybody.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains on each side?

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). The gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) has 1½ minutes remaining; the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) has 1¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Chairman, I would inquire of the gentleman from Maryland as to the amount of speakers he has remaining.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I have two, but I will take 15 seconds, and I will yield the balance of the time to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman would go ahead with his one speaker, then I will conclude our portion of the debate.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 15 seconds. First of all, let me say that the information we currently have is that military personnel can, in fact, contribute. They cannot solicit, but they can contribute.

Second, I would say that when we say that I left my lamp beside the golden door, it means that you are welcome. And when we say to somebody, you are a legal permanent resident and you can pay taxes and serve in the service, it means not only are you welcome, but you can participate. Let us not shut that golden door tonight.

Mr. Chairman, I retain the balance of my time.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.